

DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS 2006-2007

2006 NATIONAL TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT PERFORMANCE

SMYRNA PRIMARY SCHOOL
RUTHERFORD COUNTY
DR. GALE VOGEL, PRINCIPAL



Figure 1

Figure 1: **School Address: 200 Walnut Street Smyrna, Tennessee 37167**
School Telephone Number: 615- 459-3161

Smyrna Primary School is a preschool through fifth grade educational establishment that truly exemplifies its mission statement of “creating a desire to learn and achieve.” Our school provides students with multiple interventions to promote student success academically, socially, and emotionally. Smyrna Primary School is a School-wide Title I funded program.

The Tennessee State Curriculum Standards have been aligned by content and grade level to form learning goals for each six-weeks grading period. Learning goals are aligned with the Terra Nova Achievement Test objectives, as well as, state benchmarks and accomplishments for each grade level in the content areas of language arts, reading, science, social studies, and mathematics. School-wide Title I funded instructional resources, such as *Accelerated Reader*, *Thinking Maps*, *Write From the Beginning*, *P.A.S. (Predictive Assessment Series)*, *Orchard*, *Cornerstone*, *Scott Foresman Early Reading Intervention Program*, and *Letter People* were selected, implemented, and continued due to their research-based effectiveness. All of the above-named instructional resources are monitored for their accuracy and appropriateness of implementation as indicated by their researchers’ recommendations. Staff development and

technical support is provided to all faculty and staff members to further ensure the quality of instructional strategies at Smyrna Primary School.

Smyrna Primary's ongoing initiatives address a wide range of needs in our community of learners. They include, but are not limited to, the *Respect & Protect* School-wide Discipline Plan, Behavior Intervention Program, guidance/counseling program, English as a Second Language for ELL (English Language Learners), Spectrum program for gifted learners, and special education resource program. All faculty and staff members provide academic remediation opportunities for small group tutoring and whole group instruction. The school wide coordinator/reading specialist and math specialist are Title I funded personnel positions which provide the support to make these remediation opportunities possible. Two after school programs, YMCA Extended Day and Learners' Lab provide tutoring interventions for improved student success in specific skill areas. The Learners' Lab initiative is staffed by certified teachers through Title I funded extended contracts.

Teachers are provided with many opportunities for professional support. Staff development is offered in on-site training sessions, both during and after school hours. All certified teachers, all of whom have met highly-qualified status, work collaboratively in weekly grade level meetings to plan and coordinate instruction. Each teacher, regardless of years of teaching experience, is provided with an on-site mentor for further assurance of professional success. Forty grants have been awarded to faculty members since 2001-2002 through the Business Education Partnership of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce as funded by the Nissan Corporation. These grants, as authored by the Smyrna Primary teachers, are awarded based upon their creative and innovative enhancement of the curriculum standards.

Parent and community involvement is a key component to our school's success. Our Parent Teacher Organization and business partners actively support the student body, teachers, and staff through the funding of educational assemblies, academic celebrations, and school-based traditions. Parent and community involvement opportunities include, but are not limited to our annual Veterans' Day Program, Husky Hike-a Thon, Spring Dance, and Pansies for the Primary. Parents, teachers, and community volunteers, as participants in our school-based mentoring program, regularly provide their time and energy to assist students. The Title I funded parenting library is a resource of video and written materials to aid parents with supplemental support materials.

The greatest contributing factor to our school's success is our teamwork mentality! All stakeholders in the Smyrna Primary learning community have a mindset of unity and focus which is the success of all children to become literate, responsible, and productive citizens who exhibit high self-esteem and are able to meet the challenges of the future.

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

EAST LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TULLAHOMA CITY SCHOOLS MS JANE FISHER, PRINCIPAL



Figure 2

Figure 2: **School Address: 700 East Lincoln Street Tullahoma, Tennessee 37388**
School Phone Number: 931-454-2613

East Lincoln Elementary is a neighborhood school that has served the families of Tullahoma for 64 years. The staff is extremely dedicated and passionate about providing an environment where all children achieve. Income-related factors, evidenced by the fact that approximately 86% of students receive free or reduced lunches, only enhance the persistence of the staff to seek solutions, improve programs, and intensify instruction. All programs and strategies used at East Lincoln are aligned with scientifically-based research and the Tennessee State Curriculum Standards. Classroom instruction is explicit, systematic, and differentiated. Research-based classroom academic and management practices are implemented to increase instructional intensity.

Teachers and administrators continually analyze assessment data at the student, classroom, grade, and school levels to ensure that all students have opportunities to achieve. Weekly grade level planning meetings allow for assessing individual progress monitoring scores. K-3 classrooms average 15 students per teacher and include differentiated, small-group instruction. A three-tier intervention model is in place to maximize reading progress. Intervention is provided daily as needed. Technology is used to enhance instruction and students have immediate access to computers. Fourth and fifth grade students use laptops daily at school and home. Before and after school programs, summer mailings, Kindergarten Camp, extended family learning events, and support sessions during school breaks provide further opportunities for learning.

Title I, Reading First, state, local, and additional grant monies are coordinated to achieve a comprehensive program designed to ensure the success of every child. Aligning funding sources

provides an avenue for effectively accomplishing all facets of the comprehensive program design. Teams collaborate regularly to determine implementation strategies that will effectively address the achievement needs of students. Building level specialists are in place to assist in implementing programs and strategies.

Professional development is essential in providing a scientific knowledge base, in advancing explicit teaching practices, and in employing research-based programs and practices. From 2003 to 2006, East Lincoln teachers have participated in a minimum of 405 hours of professional development. Training at East Lincoln is based on a continuous planning cycle that begins with analyzing assessment data at the student, classroom, grade, and school levels. Statistics are used in conjunction with observational data and teacher requests to identify areas of need. Resulting goals address identified needs and clearly align with the comprehensive instructional program, including its research base, and State academic and performance standards. A range of delivery methods provide participants with a variety of differentiated and job-embedded experiences.

Student achievement is heightened by parent, family, and community involvement. Frequent family involvement events provide fun activities that promote positive school attitudes, address school-wide academic standards, and teach parenting skills. Several committees, including two executive groups comprised of parents, staff, and community representatives, plan events that increase involvement. Active partnerships exist with local businesses that provide volunteer, product, and financial support. Information is available concerning training events, educational opportunities, and sources of assistance with meeting basic needs. Parent computers are accessible at the school facility and at one of the housing centers that East Lincoln serves.

2006 STATE TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT PERFORMANCE

DELANO ELEMENTARY
MEMPHIS CITY SCHOOLS
MS. PATRICE SHIPP, PRINCIPAL



Figure 3

**Figure 3: School Address: 1716 Delano Rd Memphis, Tennessee 38127
School Phone Number: 901-416-3932**

Delano Elementary school is located in the northern part of Shelby County in the state of Tennessee. Serving grades kindergarten through six, Delano is a magnet/optional school in the Memphis City School system. The emphasis of our optional school program is on learning through technology. The school's population consists of 99.5% African American students and 0.5% Caucasian. There are no attendance boundaries for the school. Approximately 76% of Delano's students are from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Over the past three years, Delano has exceeded the Adequate Yearly Progress required by the State of Tennessee. Delano's success is attributed to the commitment of the administration, the faculty, staff, the parents and community stakeholders to achieve the school's mission, "To prepare all students to be successful citizens in the 21st century." This objective is accomplished by educating all students to read with fluency and comprehension, to write clearly, compute accurately and think and reason critically to solve problems. Memphis City Schools provides curriculum guides for each subject area that correlate with national and state standards. These guides are used in planning and implementing a research-based curriculum that supports best practices.

Research-based professional development is provided by the school district to ensure that all teachers are aware of those best practices and have the skills necessary to implement them in their classrooms. Grade-level teams collaborate on assessment analysis and use data and research

to plan instructional activities designed to meet the needs of all students. In the core subject areas of reading and math, students receive sufficient time for learning, while a climate conducive to teaching and learning is maintained. Students are actively involved in the learning process through learning centers, cooperative learning, interdisciplinary projects and authentic learning assessments. These activities ensure that students have opportunities to acquire higher order thinking skills and to apply the skills and their learning in diverse ways.

Delano's students are afforded the opportunity to achieve through the implementation of weekly support classes in music, library science, computer technology, and physical education. In addition, a variety of authentic learning experiences are offered, which address the needs and interests of the students. Students produce a daily news broadcast. Band, chorus, piano and strings are offered as supplemental music activities. Each teacher sponsors an after-school program, in order to broaden student interest.

Delano's Optional School faculty receive Rotary and Junior League grants to assist in funding creative learning projects and foster cross-curricular and cooperative teaching opportunities. Funding from the Memphis Arts Council has allowed our students to experience a variety of events in music and fine arts.

Parents are partners in the total educational process as evidenced by their participation in school activities and events. Delano's Dads Appreciating Dedicated Students (D.A.D.S.) is an active parent group assisting in promoting school safety. Community stakeholders, Cadence Bank and the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole, partner with the school to ensure the success of students. This is mainly accomplished through the provision of financial assistance and volunteer hours (i.e., school leadership team, reading, judging science fairs, talent shows, spelling bees, etc.).

FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY
WILLIAMSON COUNTY SCHOOLS
MS. ANN LEWIS, PRINCIPAL



Figure 4

Figure 4: School address: 2640 Fairview Boulevard Fairview, Tennessee 37062
School phone number: 615-472-4380

Fairview Elementary School is a learning community where students, staff, parents, and the community work together to make learning engaging and meaningful. Because of its history, the school has strong traditions in the community. However, the dynamics of the school and community are changing. This change has influenced the way teaching and learning have progressed during the past few years.

Fairview Elementary, located in Williamson County, has the distinction of being the neediest school in the wealthiest count in the state. While the county continues to grow and increase in buying power, the school's poverty rate also continues to grow. The percentage of children in poverty within the school increased from 32.78% during 2004-2005 to 40.71% this past school year.

The needs associated with this increased level of poverty have also escalated. To support learning expectations, Title I funding has been used to support a Reading Recovery program for first grade students. At risk children and their parents have been the recipients of much needed support as a result. The program was recently expanded by an additional teacher who works with second grade children.

The addition of a literacy specialist two years ago and a math/technology coach last year has made an impact with students and teachers. These professionals work with and coach teachers within the classroom, aid in assessment, and target groups for remedial and enrichment support. They also assist teachers in accessing materials and information for students. Staff development is provided on an on-going basis as needed in these areas to supplement our programs in the school.

The school participates in the *Friends Learning in Pairs* program. *Flip* offers opportunities for many children to read to an adult during the school day. Reading Dog Jake has

also given children another avenue for reading practice. Both of these programs are available for students at all grade levels.

In addition to a county-funded pre kindergarten class, our Title I status enabled us to have a second class last year. An additional class was just added giving us three classes to help prepare our at risk children for kindergarten experiences. The school's Wee Read Cottage provides mothers and young children opportunities weekly for story time and reading readiness experiences, as well.

Fairview Elementary and its PTO offer extended opportunities for learning through tutoring, after school clubs, and a Reading Clinic. These offerings cover a number of different interest and academic areas. Parents, community helpers, and high school members of the Future Teachers of America Club spend time in planning for and working with teachers on ideas to support student learning.

Research-based professional growth opportunities for teachers provide the basis for new learning among the adults in the building. These on-going experiences keep teachers abreast of new ways of engaging students. Teachers and staff in the school continually ask, "What can we do to help our children learn?" They will not settle for less than the best for their students.

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

UNITY SCHOOL
LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOLS
MR. DENNIS EAKIN, PRINCIPAL



Figure 5

**Figure 5: School address: 259 Boonshill-Petersburg Rd. Petersburg, TN 37144
School phone number: 931-732-4136**

Unity is a small school nestled in the rolling hills of the Tennessee Valley. We are located in a small community in northwest Lincoln County. Our school was built in 1992 to replace Boonshill and Petersburg, two older schools in this area. The families of these communities are now joined together, thus the name Unity.

Our school zone consists of several small communities and encompasses approximately ninety miles. Unity's family and community members share a strong sense of loyalty to this area. Their support is evident throughout our school.

Unity is a Title I Targeted Assisted school with a free/reduced lunch rate of fifty-one percent. We currently serve grades pre-K through 8, with an enrollment of 385 students. Our faculty and staff consists of 32 professionals and 23 paraprofessionals. We are dedicated to educating all children in a safe, nurturing environment. Together we strive to prepare our students for continued academic success. It is our desire that Unity students become productive citizens who share our love for this community.

It is the mission of Unity school to provide opportunities for each student to learn skills, acquire knowledge, and develop character within a rich, diverse, and nurturing learning environment. Everyone pulls together to accomplish our mission. Teachers use methods and strategies gained from attending various research based professional development activities. Periodic assessments and screening tools are utilized in order to provide differentiated instruction at all levels. Additional student needs are met through programs such as: special education, Title I, speech, volunteer mentoring, after school tutoring, summer school, and peer tutoring.

In order to build a strong foundation for literacy skills, Unity embraces the balanced reading approach set forth in the Reading First initiative. Professional development has played a large part in our preparation toward implementing this program. This training has provided teachers with additional tools to help meet a variety of needs in the classroom. Intervention has become a common term in our classrooms and is used daily to close the learning gaps for those in need. Title I services are available to qualifying students in grades Kindergarten through third. Students are served in the regular classroom as well as in the Title I classroom on a pull-out basis.

At Unity, we believe that the school and home should mesh together to mold our students into life-long learners. We work very hard to incorporate parent and family activities whenever possible. Each year we host at least one open house, several PTF meetings, four literacy nights, a parent/grandparent luncheon, awards days, and several other occasions to which family and community members are invited. This group effort leads us daily toward our vision that each child will experience the joys of learning, self-discovery, success, and acceptance; thereby building a community of individuals with a life-long desire to learn.

JOHN COLEMAN ELEMENTARY
RUTHERFORD COUNTY
DR. JOE PHILLIPS, PRINCIPAL



Figure 6

**Figure 6: School address: 100 Wise Drive, Smyrna, TN 37167
(615) 459-2613**

John Coleman Elementary School was built in 1952 on land adjacent to what was then Sewart Air Force Base. The school was named in honor of Mr. John Coleman, a 30-year member of the Rutherford County School Commission. A strong collaboration between the school system and Sewart Air Force Base existed until the base closed in the 1970's when the Rutherford County School Board took over the administration of the school.

Our school-wide Title I program serves a diverse population of 406 students. The student body is approximately 23.7% Hispanic, while more than 71.7% of our students are economically disadvantaged. Teaching strategies, curriculum modifications, and staff development are designed to accommodate our high percentage of low-income students, non-English speaking students, transient population, and our homeless students.

John Coleman Elementary School has seen tremendous improvement in test scores over the last three years. The TVAAS scores show significant gains; this improvement is due to our faculty's commitment to continuous improvement. Through staff development and the implementation of differentiated instructional strategies, our students have benefited from strengthened classroom techniques. Teachers have participated in various growth opportunities pertaining to Differentiated Instruction, Eric Jensen's Learning Brain Expo, the International Reading Association, the National Title

I Conference, the National Conference for Teachers of Kindergarten, the Tennessee Educational Technology Conference, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and numerous other trainings.

We take pride in the relationships we have with our parents and community stakeholders. Our strong partnerships with Bridgestone/Firestone USA, Regal Furniture, Square D, Homer Pittard Campus School and others have offered John Coleman Elementary School many opportunities. These stakeholders support us financially and give of their personal time to assist teachers, tutor students, and participate in school functions.

Our parents participate in trainings on topics such as motivation, self-esteem, reading, and helping with homework. The STARS Information Station offers materials for parents to check out for home use. With Rutherford County's Adult Education Department, we offered parents the opportunity to learn to speak English and to take Graduate Equivalent Degree (GED) classes while teachers worked with their children on academic activities.

Every person at John Coleman Elementary School takes pride in this team effort as we strive for excellence. Our mission is to facilitate and encourage the advanced development of character and educational achievement of each student according to the Tennessee state standards, benchmarks, and performance indicators. In doing so, we focus on strong partnerships between families, the community, and the school to emphasize high expectations for student achievement and to promote a life-long desire for education.